

FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD

MEETING

February 19, 2003

**General Administration Building
Olympia, WA**

Board Members Present: Chair Sharon Colby, Jim Broman, TJ Nedrow, Mark Kahley, Janet Paulson and Jim Potts

WSP Staff Present: State Fire Marshal Mary Corso and Ellen Tombleson

Guests Present: Dave Wakefield, Gregory Sobole and Ray Mattox

Introductions

The Fire Protection Policy Board introduced themselves. Gregory Sobole introduced himself and advised that he was a Senate intern, who was job-shadowing Mary. Ray Mattox also introduced himself, and advised he was from Snohomish County Fire District #1.

Approval of Agenda-

Mark Kahley advised that he would like to add an item to the agenda. Under New Business, he would like to add an item regarding funding from the legislature to provide infrastructure. This will be addressed under New Business. Sharon advised that on the Public Relations Brochure and the Policy Board Manual, that she and Jim Potts would trade places.

Motion: Jim Broman moved, Jim Potts seconded to approve the agenda as revised. Motion passes unanimously.

Approval of Minutes –

Motion: Jim Potts moved and TJ Nedrow seconded to approve the January 15, 2003, Work Session notes. Motion passes unanimously.

State Fire Marshal Report –

Mary advised that he report would include information on two items: The FTA Survey and FFI Basic Training.

FTA Survey – Mary reviewed the results of the FTA survey, which was derived from 156 responses received. In discussion regarding an item on the survey regarding credit card usage, TJ offered to provide information regarding the Washington State Fire Fighters Association's credit card usage from conference registrants.

Mary advised that all comments received through the survey would be reviewed and addressed, as appropriate. Jim Broman questioned if there was a sense of where the 156 responses came from, if they were primarily from the east side or the west side of the state. Mary advised that the responses were received mostly on a statewide basis. Results from the survey indicate that:

- 78% of responders feel the FTA should maintain the present classroom training efforts, or increase them in some way.
- 92% of responders said to maintain or expand the live fire training

- 89% of responders said to maintain or expand the safety focus at the FTA

One question on the survey asked if there were new courses available in the future, what would you like to see:

- 54% responded that they would like to See Fire Officer I
- 48% responded that they would like to see situational, live fire training
- 40% to see Fire Officer II
- 37% responded that they would like to have a course on foam application
- 30% responded that they would like see Fire Instructor II, ICS and Firefighter II added

Other courses identified include:

- advanced fire trucker operations
- first responder aircraft/helicopter firefighting techniques
- forcible entry
- wildland firefighting

The following were expressed as concerns:

- lodging
- location
- availability of courses
- costs
- physical classroom environment
- burn props
- dining facility
- training equipment

Mary advised that the next step in this survey process is to determine the true needs/gaps in fire service training throughout the state.

Sharon advised that she wanted to discuss the FPPB's responsibility regarding FFI. Sharon reminded the FPPB of RCW 43.43.934 (f) which states the board shall "develop and adopt a plan with a goal of providing training at the level of fire fighter one, as defined by the board, to all fire fighters in the state. The plan will include a reimbursement for fire protection districts and city fire departments of not less than two dollars for every hour of firefighter I training. The Washington state patrol shall not provide reimbursement for more than one hundred fifty hours of firefighter I training for each fire fighter trained."

Sharon then read FPPB # 3, which states "The Fire Protection Policy Board will promote basic and specialized training for state and local fire and emergency services, based on interoperable standards, through a variety of methods and delivery systems."

Sharon feels that these two items indicates that the FPPB does have a role to play in the training of firefighters. Sharon further advised that a bill has been introduced (SB5176 or HB 1109), which is titled, "Expanding Fire Service Training to Include Wildland Firefighting."

Mary distributed a Basic Firefighter Training Program booklet and provided an overview of the history of the development of this program, which included 3 positions, Manager of the program; staff development person and office support staff. It was anticipated that there would be 2,500 per year enrolled in the program. As of July 1, 2000, 108 departments have applied to participate in the program, with a total of 464 contracts. 3,735 have either signed up, or completed the program, with a total of 1,876 reimbursed. There is a concern that at this

time, we should be at having trained approximately 7, 500 firefighters at this point of time, instead of the 1,876. Sharon clarified that as far as funding is concerned, there is the capacity to train 2,500 firefighters per year, but in 3 years time there has only been 1,800 trained. Mary reiterated that the goal of this program was not to provide money, but to ensure that every firefighter in the state is trained to at least a basic firefighter level. Sharon asked the Board to think of ways to stimulate interest in the program, and to familiarize themselves with the Firefighter I program prior to the next work session to brainstorm ways of reaching out.

In discussion regarding fire insurance rating parameters, Janet advised she would obtain the mechanism for rating systems.

It was discussed and agreed that it would be beneficial to get a core group together to collect basic information and to develop a strawman on how to encourage more participation in the Firefighter I program. TJ Nedrow agreed to act as Chair, and will get the workgroup together prior to the April work session. Other suggested members include:

Janet Paulsen

Jim Potts

Lloyd Hazard or Brian McMahon (Wa. State Training Officers)

Ed Bageant –(President of Whitman/Adams fire districts)

Sharon Colby

Mark Kahley

Jim Broman

State Fire Defense Committee Report –Dave Wakefield advised that he was officially elected as Chair of the State Fire Defense Committee for 2003 and that Tom McDowell was elected as Vice-Chair. Mary advised that she would have staff prepare a press release regarding election of these SFDC officers. Bill Walkup will represent the SFDC on the Inter-Agency Rate Committee and on the GEO Board. Dave LaFave will represent the SFDC on the PNWCG Training Committee.

Dave advised that SFDC expense summary information provided for Jan/Feb indicates that there was \$19,027 of SFDC in-kind expenses. Dave distributed copies of the SFDC work plan issues and the Mobilization issues. The issues were categorized according to the ICS model. In discussion regarding the proposed mobilization legislation, Jim Broman suggested that the SFDC develop a template identifying their stakeholders.

Mary advised that there may concern on the part of fire chiefs regarding the time commitment of having their staff participate on the IMTs. It was suggested that a letter be sent to chiefs and commissioners of the participating IMT members. The names of the IMT members will be available following the GEO Board meeting.

Jim Broman advised, on an informational basis only, that the leading issue of the Western Chiefs Association is Incident Management credentials in the interagency environment.

Glen Woodbury, Director of the Washington State Emergency Management Division provided an overview of how Homeland Security is being addressed in Washington State, including funding and strategies.

Mark Kahley advised that he will have a draft of the 2001-02 FPPB Annual Report completed in draft form for review at the April Work Session.

Mark also advised that the WSAFC, WFCFA and DNR were invited to meet with Senator Mark Doumit to discuss infrastructure to aid in firefighting in the wildland urban interface. In further discussion on building code requirements and homeowners' responsibility, it was agreed that this is a very complex issue that needs to be addressed on a global basis for development of a comprehensive package.

Mark Kahley advised that he will act as Chair of a FPPB subcommittee (to be referred to as the Wildland Interface Risk Reduction Study Group). Janet Paulsen and Mary Corso volunteered to be part of the study group. A report on the progress of the study group will be provided at the next Board meeting.

E-911 Report - Jim Potts reported that early in the session the committee had HB 1271 – Relating to Enhancing Interoperability of the State's Communication system. The 911 account was identified to provide the funding for this bill. Jim reported that the WSP and the Military Department provided testimony that this was not the proper account to obtain funding from. It is Jim's belief that the bill will not progress. He also advised that a new bill (HB 1919) was introduced this week. He is concerned that this bill could result in the account being opened up to issues beyond enhanced 911 services. Jim Potts will contact WSP Captain Glenn Cramer and request that the WSP be proactive in testifying against this bill.

Jim Potts outlined some ideas for a tri-fold public relations brochure, and suggested that developing a strategy for designing the brochure be an agenda item for the next work session. Jim advised of a brochure that Whitman County produces to provide information for "building in the country." Jim advised he would bring a sample to the work session for review. Mary suggested that the FPPB could identify the elements and content to be included in the brochure and that the WSP Graphic Artists could perform the design work.

New Business –

Dave Byrnes provided an overview of Spokane County and the Disaster Committee, which was formed to bring together representatives of all agencies and programs established in Spokane, who may be involved in an emergency. The Disaster Committee has proven to be very effective in Spokane County. Dave advised that in order to have any plan work successfully, you need to draw in all those that are involved and have them participate in the project.

OLD BUSINESS-

Policy Board Manual – Sharon reminded Board that they are working towards getting the Policy Board Manual put together, and if anyone has terms or acronyms to be included, to forward them to Ellen, or bring them to the April Work Session.

Value of Time and Effort – Sharon reminded the Board, that they should bring their quarterly report of the time and effort they have expended on behalf of the FPPB, to bring the information to the April Work Session.

Forum Statement Feedback – At the January Work Session, Jim Broman advised that the Forum developed the following brief, comprehensive issue/problem statement:

We need a comprehensive strategy/plan that produces stable, predictable funding for fire and emergency services that is driven by an accredited service plan, which is based upon the established needs for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery.

In discussion, it was clarified that the term "accredited service plan" refers to fire department certification. Jim will advise the Forum that the FPPB is in agreement with the statement as it is written. Jim also pointed out that along with he and Sharon Colby, Pam Sullivan was a Policy Board representative on the Forum, and now that she is no longer on the Board, it may be time to appoint her replacement. Sharon advised that she would contact Joe Coulman to see if he would be interested in replacing Pam on the Forum.

Accreditation Presentation – Jim Broman provided an overview on the fire department accreditation processes. He advised that although he does not have an idea on how many departments are in currently in the process of accreditation, he feels the awareness level of the accreditation program is fairly low.

Jim Broman and Janet Paulson both advised that due to schedule conflicts, they would not be able to attend the April 16, 2003 Work Session.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30.

Next Meeting:

Work Session
April 16, 2003 – 9:00
General Administration Building
Room G-3

Approved:

Sharon Colby, FPPB Chair (Date)